My dear Maria Rome 3rd April 1869

In great haste a word with enclosed £2 £5 note which I wish'd it have been a £10 but I could not get one, yet I may soon get another £5 & you shall have it without the loss of a moment.

You are pleasantly reported in a charming letter I got from E. Berry & I shall at the first leisure moment answer him

The weather & I are both ugly tho' but for the damp I should be the best of the two — The crowd this year that comes home, has almost turned my head, but I trust it will soon turn its back & then I'll write you a cosey letter like your own

in horrid haste

Your loving brother

Joe

P.S. My fortune was made when Charley began to call me "Joseph"